crop husbandry, animal husbandry and fishery, minor irrigation projects, rural development works, agricultural marketing schemes and schemes for water harvesting and conservation, keeping in view the agro-climatic conditions, natural resources and technological possibilities in each district. A comprehensive State Agricultural Plan (SAP) would be prepared by the States by integrating the DAPs.

The States have been provided flexibility and autonomy in the process of planning as well as selection, approval and execution of schemes under RKVY. The State Level Sanctioning Committee (SLSC) headed by the Chief Secretary approves the projects for implementation under RKVY.

(b) During 2007-08, out of 24 States eligible under the scheme, 22 States held the SLSC meetings and approved projects on the basis of their plan under RKVY. None of the Union Territories convened the SLSC meetings. An amount of Rs. 1246.89 crore was released by the Central Government to the States/UTs during 2007-08. During the current year, out of 22 eligible States, 17 States have already held SLSC meetings for approval of projects and funds to the tune of Rs. 1094.65 crore have been released to the States/UTs so far.

Gas-based fertilizer plants in Uttar Pradesh

*112. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) with the huge discovery of natural gas in the Krishna-Godavari and Mahanadi basin, whether his Ministry has planned a road map for establishing gas based fertilizer plants in the country;

(b) whether any study has been undertaken to convert coal/Nafta based fertilizer plants into gas-based fertilizer plants to make them economically viable;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) how many such plants will be established in Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (d) The Government has recently finalized and announced a policy for New Investments in Urea Sector in order to attract new investments in this sector for setting up of gas based urea projects in the country. Further, the Government has already decided to accord highest priority in allocation of gas for the fertilizer sector. It is expected that the prospective investors will take their own commercial decision for investments in urea sector and location of such projects, based on the above announced policy and the availability of natural gas from the Krishna-Godavari-Mahanadi basin.

As regards non-gas based fertilizers units in the country, the New Pricing Scheme Stage-III for existing urea units has made it mandatory for all non-gas based units to convert into gas by March, 2010. To incentivize the conversion of above units it has been provided that the energy efficiency due to conversion of units to gas will be left with the units for first five years of commercial production to enable them to recover the investment towards conversion of their units.

Bypassing of Dental Council of India

*113. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state: